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SUNDAY  
AUGUST 11, 1957

# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## MARGINAL COLUMN

By NISSIM REJWAN

WHAT used to be called government by mob and demonstration in the Arab world seems to have given way, now that Egyptian propaganda has lost its old power and Saudia gold is no longer forthcoming, to what can be termed Radio Diplomacy. On July 31 Samir al-Rifa'i, Jordan Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, had a talk with the Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Amman at his own request. Accounts differ as to what precisely took place at the meeting, but it is established that Rifa'i deplored the intensive attacks waged in the Syrian press against Jordan and her present ruler, adding that Jordan hoped the Syrian authorities would take steps to put an end to this campaign, and that should Damascus fail to do so his Government may find itself compelled to take whatever measures it deems fit to defend its name and its honour. On August 3 Damascus Radio broadcast a statement by an official Syrian spokesman claiming that Rifa'i had threatened the use of force against Syria, declared that his country now considered Syria an enemy on a par with Israel, asserted that he was fully aware of the import of what he was saying and, in reply to the Syrian envoy's shocked question as to whether it was permitted that an Arab should kill a brother Arab, had the impertinence to say Yes, it was permitted in certain circumstances. (The Syrian spokesman would no doubt have drawn comfort from the fact that during the 1936-39 riots in Palestine the number of Arabs that brother Arabs managed to kill exceeded that of Britons and Jews combined.)

WHETHER or not Rifa'i had said all that the Syrians credited him with saying will probably never be established for certain. One cannot help thinking, however, that in denying the Syrian account, the Jordan Minister was taking the only course open to him. The shifting by the Syrian authorities of the whole affair from what was after all a strictly old-fashioned diplomatic exchange to the realm of Radio Diplomacy was probably the last thing Rifa'i had expected. It may be said, though, that with the Syrian Union making a regular practice of publicizing diplomatic exchanges not meant for publication, the question has become somewhat academic. Yet Salah Bitar, the Syrian Foreign Minister, himself felt called upon to justify his taking the unusual step of revealing Rifa'i's threat, declared at his press conference last Monday that Syria

FROM the point of view of the present Syrian regime, however, Radio Diplomacy has already paid dividends. Rifa'i having in due course disclaimed what he was alleged to have said, this week he hailed by Egyptian and Syrian propaganda organs as a traitor in the face of Arab nationalism. Arab public opinion, it follows, stands firmly behind Syria and her liberated policy of positive neutrality and non-alignment.

Jerusalem, August 11.

We regret to announce the death of the President of the World Maccabi Movement.

## AHARON NETANEL

The Maccabi World Executive and Maccabi Israel deeply mourn the movement's heavy loss.

The funeral cortege will start out today, August 11, 1957, at 12 noon, from Beit Hamaccabi, Rehov Maccabi, Tel Aviv, for the Nahlat Yitzhak cemetery.

The coffin will lie in state from 9.30 to 11.30 a.m.

The management and staff of

THE GENERAL TIRE AND RUBBER CO. (ISRAEL) LTD.

deeply mourn the untimely death of

## AHARON NETANEL

founder of the company and Chairman of its Board of Directors.

## Will Not Open Attack on U.S. — Khrushchev

BERLIN, Saturday (UP). — The Soviet Communist leader, Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, declared last night the Soviets will meet any attack with a "devastating counter-blow," but said Russia will never attack the U.S.

Mr. Khrushchev, at a rally in Leipzig, devoted a large part of his speech to stressing the Soviet Union's peaceful intentions. He said Russia does not want war, does not need war, and will not begin war.

Despite this peaceful note, however, he charged the West with preparing for a new war, and criticized U.S. bases in West Germany.

### Stadium Half Empty

Mr. Khrushchev got the same cold reception in Leipzig he got in East Berlin when he arrived on Wednesday for his goodwill tour. The Leipzig Sport Stadium was more than half empty.

It holds 100,000. Mr. Khrushchev again made a bitter attack on the West German Government but he did not mention Chancellor Adenauer by name. He said the West German ban of the Communist Party "reminds me of Hitler."

Mr. Khrushchev predicted the victory of Communism in the whole world. "You can not halt it any more than you can halt the coming of day and night," he said.

## Mao, Top Officials At Loggerheads

PEKING, Saturday (Reuter). — A "rightist" Chinese scientist has said that recent policies caused a split in the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party between the Chairman, Mao Tse-tung, and "sectarian senior officials," according to a newspaper report. The report appeared this week in the "Kwangming" daily, an intellectual Democratic Party newspaper.

It said Mr. Hsu Liang-ying, who joined the Communist party in 1946, launched an attack on the Central Committee in a meeting of officials of the Department of Scientific Research on June 13 — just after the opening of the attack against rightists. The report said Mr. Hsu declared that the "counter-attack against the rightists was most probably due to the fact that the policies of Chairman Mao Tse-tung had been opposed by some senior cadres within the party who were guilty of sectarianism. 'On account of that opposition there had been a change and Mao had agreed to compromise.'"

Observers here and in Shanghai have noted a similar feeling among some Chinese that there are major differences at high levels and that it is Mr. Mao who is on the side of a more liberal policy.

## JORDAN RECOGNIZES NATIONALIST CHINA

A royal decree was published in Amman on Friday confirming the establishment of diplomatic relations with Nationalist China, according to "A-Difa," the Old City daily.

## LAOTIAN ASSEMBLY APPROVES NEW GOVT

TOKYO, Saturday (UP). — The Laotian National Assembly today approved a new Cabinet with Prince Souvanna Phouma as Premier to end a two-month-old political crisis, Peking Radio reported today.

## Arabs to Question Israel Suez Passage

The Iraqi Government is following with increasing anxiety Egypt's permitting ships carrying supplies to Israel to pass through the Suez Canal, the Arab News Agency reported yesterday, quoting responsible sources in Baghdad. It added that the subject will shortly be raised between the Arab countries.

It is maintained by these sources that Egypt's conduct is in contradiction to the anti-Israel boycott resolutions agreed upon by all the Arab states.

## Histadrut and Ata Hold First Session

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — The Histadrut-Ata negotiations towards settling the 13-week-old Ata workers strike entered their first stage yesterday at a two-hour meeting in the Vaad Hapalei Building between the management and the Histadrut Executive.

The entire question of efficiency dismissals served as the central point of discussion. Other subjects discussed were the establishment of an employees' pension fund, and a productivity council.

A further meeting will be held tomorrow.

Ata management representatives were Messrs. H. Moller, Y. Geri and E. Kirschner. The Histadrut Executive was represented by Mr. P. Lavon, Secretary-General, Mr. A. Becker, head of the Trade Union Department, and Mr. Y. Meshel, head of the Industrial Workers Division. Previously, the Histadrut Central Committee had met in keeping with the decision passed at yesterday's Histadrut Executive meeting, to hold direct negotiations with the Ata management. Following Mr. Becker's proposal, the Committee empowered Mr. Lavon to choose the Histadrut representatives.

## Klutznick and Meany In U.N. Delegation

WASHINGTON, Saturday (INA). — Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith, was nominated by President Eisenhower yesterday as member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Assembly next month.

Mr. Klutznick has just returned from a visit to Israel. The delegation also includes Mr. George Meany, President of AFL-CIO, and Irene Dunne, the actress.

## Israel Repeats Call For U.N. Probe of Syrian Threats

NEW YORK, Saturday (Reuter). — Israel yesterday repeated her demand for U.N. investigation of threatening actions and statements by Syria. Mr. Mordecai Kidron, Israeli deputy permanent representative, personally handed a request for such an inquiry to the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Dag Hammarskjold.

It was understood that Mr. Hammarskjold promised to take up the Israel request. Last month the U.N. senior representative on the spot, Col. Byron Leary, rejected a similar appeal, saying that the Mixed Armistice Commission was not competent to discuss general clauses of the Armistice Agreement, one of which had been cited in the request.

Mr. Kidron told correspondents that the M.A.C. was "competent and bound to undertake an investigation, and to consider all complaints of the parties under any or all of the provisions of the Armistice Agreement," he added that he also raised a new plea for a declaration by Egypt that she had abandoned "belligerency" against Israel.

No reply had been received by Mr. Hammarskjold from Cairo to previous questions on this subject which Israel has repeatedly raised.

## Belligerency Issue

The Israel envoy asked the Secretary-General for word about his representations to Egypt over the detention of the Israeli sailor, Rafi Eylon, who was taken off the Danish ship Birgitte Toft when she entered the Suez Canal last month. It was understood that the M.A.C. was "competent and bound to undertake an investigation, and to consider all complaints of the parties under any or all of the provisions of the Armistice Agreement," he added that he also raised a new plea for a declaration by Egypt that she had abandoned "belligerency" against Israel.

## Cyprus Emergency Powers Eased

NICOSIA, Saturday (Reuter). — British authorities in Cyprus yesterday lifted a number of emergency regulations including many affecting the free movement of Cypriots.

The 23 regulations which were relaxed included powers to appoint press and radio censors and to control lines of communication. Curfew and visit visas were abolished and the prohibition on processions, meetings and assemblies was lifted. A number of regulations were also revoked or relaxed earlier this year soon after Archbishop Makarios was released from exile in the Seychelles in April. Yesterday's announcement came nearly five months after the cessation of violence by EOKA sympathizers.

# Syrians to Receive 2 Soviet Coastal Subs Under New Arms Deal, Cairo Reports

## Czechs to Expand Assistance

## USSR Planes Among 6 Torpedo Boats Included

PRAGUE, Saturday. — Czechoslovakia will extend her economic relations with Syria "on the basis of complete equality and mutual advantage," and will train Syrian workers to operate Czech-built industrial projects, the Czech news agency, Ceteka, reported today.

It said that agreement on this follows talks between the Syrian Government delegation led by Acting Defence Minister Khaled Azem, and Czech officials, including President Antonin Capotocky and Premier Vilam Siroky. Azem and the Syrian Chief of Staff, accompanied by several Syrian Army officers, arrived today in Geneva on their way to Damascus, after spending three days in Prague. Azem would not reveal whether the delegation had arranged to buy any more arms from Russia or Czechoslovakia.

He said that every time Syria did so in the past "it was always taken as an excuse to deliver more arms to Israel." He added, "This time we are adopting another policy of not saying anything about whether or not we have purchased arms."

He stressed that Syria was concerned with arms only for defence. Pressed to specify whence he expected the aggression, he said that Syria was not worried about any attack from Jordan or other Arab neighbours, but that "what we can expect is a possible attack from Israel."

Syria acted on the Roman proverb: "If you want peace, prepare for war."

The Syrian group's mission to Russia was "for a brotherly salute from the Syrian people, to witness the friendship which the Soviet Union has manifested toward Syria in particular in Arab countries in general, and to show our gratitude for aid from the Soviet Union."

Azem said the mission had no definite arrangement for any return visits to Syria by Mr. Nikita Khrushchev, or anyone else from the Soviet Union. "But it is possible and we would always be happy to receive them," it is quite possible that they may come to the Middle East as they have already travelled to many other countries, he added.

(Egyptian press reports on Friday said that the Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Zhukov, will visit Syria shortly.) (Reuter, UP)

## Rebels in Oman Hold Up British

MANANAH, Bahrain, Saturday (Reuter). — Royal Air Force planes today attacked with bombs, rockets and machineguns five key positions held by the Imam of Oman's forces in the area where the Sultan's British-led troops have been held up for two days before the fortified town of Nizwa.

There was no ground action today around Firz, which blocks the path to the Imam's Nizwa headquarters, 10 kms. away.

Air Vice Marshal Lawrence Sinclair, in charge of air operations, told reporters that a "set piece battle" had been prepared against Firz and Nizwa. Asked whether an unofficial estimate of three days for completion of the Oman operation still held good he said, "I see nothing to hinder us."

Yesterday, the column advancing against the Imam's stronghold at Nizwa was withdrawn after meeting unexpectedly strong opposition. The opposition was estimated at 200 trained men led by the Imam's brother, Talib Bin Ali.

## ARAB LEAGUE SESSION

In Cairo seven Arab nations recommended today that the Arab League submit the Omani dispute to the U.N. Security Council as a "threat to international peace."

But the organization awaited the views of Iraq and Libya before making the appeal formal.

Sheikh Mohamed el Harthy, the representative of the Imam of Oman, attended the meeting to submit a memorandum on the situation.

## Eylon Said Being Released Shortly

CAIRO, Saturday (UP). — The Israel sailor taken into custody by Egyptian authorities a fortnight ago may be released in the next few days, informed sources said today.

Egyptian police took Rafi Eylon from the Israeli-Chartered Danish freighter Birgitte Toft before it was allowed to pass through the Suez Canal at the end of last month.

The sources said the release of Eylon was discussed at a meeting between the Egyptian Palestine Affairs Director, Brig. Salah Gohar, and the U.N. representative, Fernando Sampt, yesterday.

Mr. Sampt was said to have postponed a scheduled flight to New York so that he could take the matter up with Gohar on behalf of Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold.

It was said that Eylon was slated to be released today but remained in custody because of a last-minute hitch.

## Arms to Yemen

LONDON, Saturday (Reuter). — Britain is aware that there have been six, possibly seven, shipments of Soviet arms to the Yemen, the Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday.

He told his daily news conference that he understood these shipments included a number of aircraft. There were also about 50 Soviet instructors or technicians in the Yemen.

The spokesman was answering questions about a London newspaper report that the Syrian Government had supplied to the Yemeni Government. He said he could confirm that these supplies were being delivered.

"I think the supply started about the beginning of this year."

He added in reply to a further question that he could not confirm that Britain had similar information about the supply of arms to Syria.

A dispatch from Aden said reports reaching there from the Yemen confirmed that Russian small arms, tanks, anti-aircraft guns and aircraft had reached the Yemeni ports of Hodeidah and Saleef.

In Washington, reliable sources said the arms shipments were described by the Yemeni Charge d'Affaires in his State Department talks recently as "insurance" for defence against British military forces on the Yemen-Aden border.

Britain and the U.S. are now consulting on the arrival of the Soviet arms but no decisions about reaction by the West had been taken. State Department officials observed that as far as they knew Yemen did not have a single pilot to fly the aircraft received.

## 5 Years for Soviet Spies in U.S.

NEW YORK, Saturday (UP). — Federal Judge John M. Cashin sentenced confessed Russian spies Myra Sobie and Jacob Albaum yesterday to five-and-a-half years in prison. He postponed the sentencing of Jack Sobie until September 18 at the request of the Government.

Informed sources said the Government's request was made because Sobie, a naturalized U.S. citizen, is still testifying before a Federal Grand Jury about his operations as a top agent in the U.S. for the Soviet intelligence.

The Sobies and Albaum had been indicted for actual espionage but pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of conspiracy.

Mrs. Sobie is also a naturalized citizen, and Albaum had applied for citizenship at the time of the trio's arrest last January 25. The roundup was the result of 10 years of FBI investigation.

Meanwhile, the accused Russian spy, Rudolf Abel, was ordered held without bail yesterday for a Federal Court hearing on Tuesday. He asked for the delay so he could secure an attorney.

A Grand Jury has indicted Abel on three counts of master-minding a spy network that transmitted American defence and atomic secrets to Russia.

## Syrian Chamber To Debate Soviet Aid

CAIRO, Saturday. — Syria will get two small coastal submarines from Russia under her new arms deal with the Soviet Union, informed Arab sources said today. They said Syrian naval cadets will be trained in Poland to man the subs.

There was no indication when the submarines would be delivered to Syria. Egypt recently received three Russian submarines.

There has been no official confirmation from Damascus on procurement of the Russian submarines for Syria. Nor has there been any official statement on just what arms were included in the deal concluded in Moscow last week by acting Defence Minister Khaled Azem of Syria.

A Syrian source said in Cairo on Friday that Syria is also expecting to get six torpedo boats from the Soviet Union as part of the new aid agreement signed last week in Moscow. The source added that the new agreement provided that Syria could defer payment for an unspecified time.

A Syrian press report last week said that Syria would pay \$125m. over the next 10 years for goods purchased from Russia.

Meanwhile some London naval experts hold the view that the two submarines spotted proceeding down the coast of Scotland early this morning and first identified as Polish, may in fact be Soviet submarines destined for Egypt. The progress of the submarines is being carefully watched by the Admiralty. (UP, INA)

The date of the session will be fixed after the return of the Syrian mission, now on its way from Prague.

Premier Sabri Asali has refused to enter into details about the agreement, saying that he was awaiting "fuller information." But he added that the agreement "embraces all Syria's economic needs."

The agency said that "many" Syrian leaders have expressed satisfaction at the agreement. However, the opposition Shalab Party and the coalition left-wing Arab Socialist Ba'ath (Resurgence) Party have withheld comment until they have studied the details of the agreement.

## Syrians Claim Turks Massing on Border

DAMASCUS, Saturday (UP). — The Syrian press alleged yesterday that 3,500 to 5,000 Turkish troops were massed on the Syrian border in the Qarak Khan area, about 50 kms. from Aleppo.

The reports could not be confirmed or denied officially.

## Syria to Prevent Jordan Diversion

Syria will stop any attempt by Israel to resume work on the diversion of the Jordan waters in contravention of the Security Council's resolutions, an official Syrian spokesman declared in Damascus last night, according to Beirut Radio.

The spokesman added that Syria is now studying Col. Byron Leary's latest report on the border situation with Israel.

He told a press conference a great deal of Russian naval traffic — submarines, minesweepers, escort destroyers and cruisers — had been noted in the region.

He said the Sixth Fleet is a stabilizing factor in the Middle East and its presence there has kept things more stable than they would have been if the fleet had not been there. "The quickest way to a collapse in the area would be to remove our power," he said.

## UNEF Probing Drug Traffic Charges

CAIRO, Saturday (Reuter). — A UNEF spokesman said yesterday that the force's provost marshal was investigating Egyptian charges against two Canadian soldiers alleged to have been carrying narcotics.

The Egyptian authorities are delaying further investigation pending arrival of a Canadian lawyer.

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## Tito's Concessions to Khrushchev

### Yugoslavia Still Tied to Soviet Bloc

By RICHARD LOWENTHAL

LONDON (OFNS) —

MR. Khrushchev scored an important, if limited, success at his surprise meeting with Marshal Tito early this month. During those two days in Rumania, he certainly did not overcome all the obstacles to closer and smoother co-operation between Yugoslavia and the Soviet bloc, but he did manage to bring the communists mentioned among the principal subjects of discussion. But he did obtain a Yugoslav commitment not to oppose the formation of a new centre for the co-operation of the ruling parties of all the Communist Powers, and presumably even to join in its work in some form. And that, from a country which has steadfastly attacked the record of the late Cominform and has greatly benefited from taking up a position of non-alignment between the Soviet bloc and its opponents, is not a small thing.

### Secret Meeting

I was in Belgrade at the time when the secret meeting took place, and there was no talking of the great affair. I had come specially to find out the results of the recent visits to Russia of several Yugoslav leaders, and I was told by a member of the central committee concerned with international party relations that nothing of great importance had happened. Yugoslavia's relations with individual Communist Parties would remain bilateral—close and friendly with some of them, like Poland and the Italians—less cordial with others—but not different in principle from similar relations maintained with some Western Social Democratic parties. True, they would not exclude the principle of "multilateral" discussion on some regional problem as occasion arose, but there could be no question of reviving a permanent international organization.

Mr. Hasan Brkic, the president of the Foreign Trade Commission, has just returned from successful negotiations in Moscow on the financing of a major Yugoslav aluminium plant, was equally calm and detached: there could be no link between such a project and the relations and any political conditions, and Yugoslavia remained willing and ready to work for increasing integration of her economy with those of her non-Communist neighbours, especially in the field of the development and exploitation of her power resources. True, Yugoslavia was now regularly partaking in the meetings of the "Council for Mutual Economic Aid" (CMEA), but only as an "observer."

While Mr. Brkic was telling me this, the meeting in Rumania was already approaching its conclusion. When the first news about its results reached me, my natural inclination was the same as that of all Western observers in Belgrade—to play down its importance, to note the emphasis on "obstacles" and the lack of cordiality. But a study of the text of the communiqué convinced me that this would be a dangerously one-sided interpretation, and that something new and important has really happened.

The first thing to note about the meeting in Rumania is that it was primarily a party affair. None of the Yugoslav statesmen who recently visited Russia went on behalf of the League of Communists. This time no major inter-State problems were to be settled, and the representation of the Soviet and Yugoslav parties was mentioned in the first place.

Moreover the Soviet delegation included Mr. Kuznetsov, the veteran of the pre-war Cominform, who since Mr. Khrushchev's recent reshuffle has taken over supervision of relations with foreign Communist parties on behalf of the party presidium and secretary Mr. Ponomarev, whom Mr. Khrushchev de-

scribed in a talk with French Socialists last year as a "remnant of the Cominform" and who is, I understand, to direct the department for Communist parties outside the party secretariat; and Mr. Andropov, who was Soviet Ambassador to Hungary until last October and is now in charge of the corresponding department for Communist parties within the Soviet orbit. Again, the Yugoslav delegation included Mr. Vlahovic, who is in charge of international party relations on behalf of Yugoslavia.

### Fraternal Cooperation

Against this background, one sentence of the communiqué assumes its full significance: "Particular importance was attached to strengthening, in all its aspects, of the unity and fraternal cooperation of the Communist and workers' parties of the peoples of all Socialist countries of the peace-loving and progressive forces throughout the world, and to the unity of the international workers' movement." The latter expressions in the sentence amount to no more than pious hopes for a united front with all "progressive" forces. But the strengthening of co-operation between the Communist and workers' parties of all Socialist countries, announced the intention of moving towards a new common centre for all ruling Communist parties, including that of China and eventually also of Yugoslavia.

Such a step would clearly be greatly in the interest of Mr. Khrushchev, who could hope in such a framework to regain some of the international authority which Soviet Communism has lost in recent years, and to approach his 1955 visit to Belgrade—that of reviving Communism as an international faith at the price of conceding more internal autonomy to Russia's partners.

But what could Yugoslavia gain from a policy which must, in the long run, end her present non-alignment in

fact if not in form, for the corollary of her determination to stand outside the two armed blocs in world affairs has hitherto been her insistence on equally fraternal ties with Communists in the East and Social Democrats in the West? A party alignment which must needs end the latter would also deprive the former of all credibility. Yet Yugoslavia has done spectacularly well out of her non-alignment; and Mr. Khrushchev has no means of pressure which could force her to abandon it.

I can see only one answer to the riddle. President Tito is not only the guardian of Yugoslav independence. He is also an independent-minded Communist who has never abandoned his ambition to play a leading role in reforming Communism everywhere. For years he and his entourage have followed the changes in Russia with a fascinated desire to help the "Progressive" tendency there. They see this tendency at present embodied in Khrushchev and Mikoyan—not because they agree with them on every point, but because they believe that these men have started to set Russia on a new road which may lead further and faster than they know as yet themselves.

### Fears Isolation

For the sake of fostering this development, Tito cannot bear to be isolated from contact with the peoples of all Socialist countries, and he is determined to help the "Progressive" tendency there. For the sake of his domestic consolidation, needed concessions from Yugoslavia, the choice was really between concessions at the expense of Yugoslav ideological independence or isolation from Soviet developments. That was the reason for Tito's concessions to Khrushchev last summer, when he went so far as to compromise himself with the Stalinist regime of Geroe in Hungary on the very eve of the Hungarian revolution. And that, in all probability, is also the reason for the new and even more dangerous concessions he has made now.

### Heard Abroad

The Queen's English is unquestionably one of the most beautiful of the dead languages.

The Tories want collective bargaining in which the employers do all the bargaining and all the collecting.

If that man who knows so much about my business will offer me a million dollars to go to the States, I am going to make a sale in a minute.

I have always liked millionaires.

### God help us if someone for

logical reasons said we could do away with the Horse Artillery.

The Party, in the Communist, is also the party of the dissections it is because some members are slightly more conservative than the rest.

The mystery remains, how was it that the great poetry of the century came to be written by a man who throughout his mature existence had a fixed address.

The two men in charge of the work are Messrs. Reuben De Button and Zeev Guttman of Harish.

## Prague Rabbi Arrested

By MAURICE CARR

PARIS — THE arrest of a Prague rabbi on an undisclosed charge was reported here by the Chief Rabbi of France, Jacob Kaplan, on his return from a visit to the Czech capital. He could give no further information on the matter, other than to say that "efforts are being made, apparently with some hope of success, to obtain the rabbi's release."

Together with two American rabbis and the Chief Rabbi of Rumania and Hungary, Rabbi Kaplan participated in Prague in the 10th anniversary celebration of the installation of the Chief Rabbi of Czechoslovakia, Dr. Gustav Slicher.

"There are in Czechoslovakia 23,000 Jews who are registered members of the community — 8,000 in Bohemia, Moravia and 15,000 in Slovakia — to which must be added another 23,000 Jews who are not registered," Rabbi Kaplan told your correspondent. "There are altogether six rabbis, counting the one now in prison."

"In Prague two synagogues, the historic Alt-Nel and the Jerusalem, are open to worshippers. The others have been transformed into Jewish museums. On the walls of one of these synagogues, the Pinkas, the names of the 30,000 Jews deported from Prague by the Nazis are now being inscribed."

"Of the 385,000 Jews who lived in Czechoslovakia before the war, more than 350,000 were sent to the Nazi death camps. In the present community, the proportion of children is very small. In Prague, for instance, which has 6,000 Jews, there are no more than 300 Jewish children of school age, of whom only 50 attend religious classes — and then only for one hour a week. For a child to receive permission from the State educational authorities to go to religious classes, his parents must make an application."

"Up to Parents" Rabbi Kaplan and the other visiting rabbis were received by the Czech Vice-Minister for Religious Affairs. They pointed out to him that one hour a week of religious instruction was insufficient for Jewish children, who have to learn Hebrew in order to say their prayers. The Minister declared that if the parents would ask for an extension of time, permission would be granted. He also agreed to a suggestion that young Jews wishing to qualify as rabbis should be allowed to study abroad, as there is no seminary in Czechoslovakia.

The rabbis visited the former ghetto of Theresienstadt, where the extermination camp has been turned into a museum. They witnessed a demonstration of how the bodies of the Jewish martyrs used to be wheeled in a trolley from the gas chambers and tipped into the crematorium. The demonstration was given by a very un-Jewish-looking burly Jew, a former inmate of the camp, who had performed this same function when the crematoria were working at full blast.

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## New Road Is Key to Eilat's Future

By MEIR BEN-DOV

THE key to Eilat's future is its communication system with the rest of the country.

For passengers and tourists, the most practical and convenient way is by air. In this respect, Eilat is already adequately served by Arkia airlines, which now run 25 return flights weekly, capable of carrying nearly 4,000 passengers monthly in each direction. Air transport is capable of all most unlimited and immediate expansion to cope with increased traffic.

For the development of Eilat as an important port, a railway that can carry large shipments of bulk minerals from the Negev for export to the East is an absolute must. However, the construction of such railway will run into difficult engineering and financial problems, and while there is no doubt that it will eventually be built, and that, when it is, it will be economically viable, at present bulk transport still has to be carried by road.

The difficulties of transport by road have created the chief bottleneck in the economic development of Eilat. Necessitating Government subsidies for essential goods and raising the prices of other goods in Eilat, the cost in the rest of the country. Even today, the limiting factor of Eilat as an export-import port has been the cost of the haulage. It could currently handle twice as much shipping as it does, but the high cost of transport — over IL20 per ton — just now makes it uneconomical for the haulers. For the wear and tear on vehicles on the rough, unpaved roads is enormous, and in bad weather the journey from Beer Sheva to Eilat often takes two days or longer.

### New Route

Three years ago, the only road to Eilat, as the picture shows, was a rough and dangerous Arava Road, running down Scorpion's Pass (Maale Akrahim) to Hatzeva, 20 kms. of the road to the Jordan border for about 130 kms. The Engineer Corps then built an alternative road, safer though not shorter, from Kfar Yehoram via Sde Boker and Mahane Ezer, down the serpentine Maale Atzmaut (a 300-metre drop down the almost vertical wall of the Ramon Crater — an engineering feat of a high order) and then eastward to join the old Arava Road at Beer Menuha, 89 kms. north of Eilat. The first 32 kms. of this road, from Beer Menuha to Kfar Yehoram, were asphalted; the next 100 kms. were constructed chiefly of rolled kaolin, cheap and suitable in dry weather, but an almost impassable quagmire after rains, especially on steep slopes of which there is no lack on this stretch. About 20 kms. of the road is at various times being asphalted, though heavy traffic and lack of maintenance had worn enormous potholes in the surface. The last 24 kms. to Beer Menuha and the 89 kms. along the Arava, were constructed of local gravel, with occasional stretches coarsely pitched with stone.

The continuous traffic had worn the surface here into corrugations, spaced at 30 cm. pitches, over which vehicles have to tear at high speeds to the detriment of vehicle and cargo. Speeds of less than 40 kph. are impossible along this road, for then the vehicle's springs tune in to the periodicity of the crests, causing the vehicle to respond with crazy rocking motion in which control over steering is lost.

Before the Sinai campaign, the 27 kms. from Eilat to the copper mines at Timna were re-located to remove them from the border and the surface was asphalted, to afford easier access to the copper works.

With the opening up of the port of Eilat after the Sinai campaign, and the construction of a new road, the volume of transport to Eilat increased 10 fold. The construction of a class A road became imperative. Tenders



The new road winding up the side of the cliffs of Maale Atzmaut.

Photo by Ben-Dov

were let for the start of new construction in January 1967 but owing to the high pressure of other engineering works (the oil pipeline and terminal) in the Arava at that time, work did not start till the end of April.

### Two Parts

The work on the new road consists essentially of two parts. The first is a "short cut" from 16 kms. west of Beer Menuha (kilometre 140 from Beer Sheva) to a point 50 kms. north of Eilat, through very difficult mountainous terrain. The actual saving of distance on this 40-km. road is only about 15 kms., but essentially it will remove the road further from the Jordan border, where it has always been vulnerable to ambush. The blasting of this road was let by contract to Solel Boneh and Harish. Four kilometres still remain to be blasted, and the rest is now being shaped to formation, ready to receive the running surface.

The second part of the road improvement is the asphalt paving, carried out directly by the

### Public Works Department

Two work camps were set up. The men from the first camp asphalted the stretch from Kfar Yehoram to km. 92, just south of Maale Atzmaut. A certain amount of re-alignment and regrading was necessary before surfacing, to make the road bed easier, but in many places the hot asphalt, mixed with a filler of local aggregates, was spread like a carpet from a special machine straight on the old surface, and with a few passes of a road roller the new road was ready for traffic. The new surface is spread at a rate approaching one kilometre per day.

At the same time the southern road gap asphalted the road from Timna to Yotvata and beyond. The first two stages of the asphalt paving have now been completed, the plant has been brought southwards to augment the equipment. The new camp will continue asphalt paving the road from km. 92 to the junction with the new road at km. 140.

## The Men Behind the Job

By H. BEN ADI

THE new 40-kilometre stretch of the Beer Sheva-Eilat road, which will be ready by October has presented one of the most involved working and engineering problems in Israel road-building.

By the time the road is finished 140,000 cubic metres of rock and 150,000 cubic metres of earth will have been blasted and moved — with the help of 60 tons of explosives.

The two men in charge of the work are Messrs. Reuben De Button and Zeev Guttman of Harish. Mr. De Button came to Israel from Egypt before the war. One of Beer Sheva's first settlers, he is Solel Boneh's chief road construction engineer in the Negev, where there are very few roads which he did not help to build. Mr. Guttman of Harish is known to very few people by his family name, but just say "Wolf of Harish" and everybody in the Negev will know to whom you are referring. He was also one of the main contractors on the Sdum road and many are the legends that are told about him around campfires.

### Dante's Inferno

With a little imagination, the working site can be compared to a scene out of Dante's "Inferno". The mercury seldom drops below 40 C. at noon, and there is no shade anywhere. The roaring of the bulldozers, the thunder of the blasting and the staccato go on from five in the morning until seven in the evening. Add to this the good measure of snake and scorpion, wrap the whole in permanent clouds of dust raised by the machines and the blast-

ing, wash it down with tea and you will get a very vague idea of what it is like down there. When the workers come to Beer Sheva and have a glass of tap water, they say that it tastes to them like champagne.

The tractor drivers work in two seven-hour shifts and unskilled workers, who, as Mr. De Button says, are also doing an excellent job, work 10 to 12 hours a day. Food, lodging and transport are provided free for everyone by Solel Boneh at the workers' camps but Mr. De Button believes that the workers em-

### Travelling Time

With the improvements today, in which 92 kms. from Beer Sheva southwards and 46 from Eilat northwards are in first-class condition with another 36 kms. south of Maale Atzmaut asphalted, though some surfaces are still classed as "very bad," and with only about 70 kms. unpaved, a jeep can save over an hour of travelling time from Eilat to Beer Sheva compared to just three months ago. A loaded lorry can save many hours, not to mention reduced damage to vehicle and load and to the driver's health.

When the road is completely finished some time in October, a fast car will be able to travel from Tel Aviv to Eilat in a little over five hours, and the cost of transport to the Red Sea can be almost halved.

This is the second of a series of articles. The first appeared on August 8.

## Readers' Letters

### FRANCE AND ISRAEL

Editor, The Jerusalem Post Sir, — In his letter published in your issue of July 19, Mr. Shunani says that we should "show the French nation our gratitude for their friendship by familiarizing ourselves with their culture." This idea seems somewhat naive and reminds me of a sad galut mentality. I don't believe there have ever been such ethical reasons that led a nation to learn another nation's language.

The unwillingness of our children to study foreign languages (which upsets Mr. Shunani) is quite normal and is to be found among children of all other nations. A trip to France as a prize for outstanding students in the French language and culture would, of course, be a stimulus that would at any rate change their attitude fundamentally.

Only our relations with France will bring the necessity as well as the interest

for our children to study this language. What we can and have to do is to lead them to acknowledge the beauty of the French language, and its treasures. What we need for this purpose is more cultural material — spread by Centres (or cercles) de culture française.

Yours, etc.

ELSE KERN

Tel Aviv, July 26.

### PRICE OF MEAT

Editor, The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I have read in your paper that we Israelis are great vegetable and fruit eaters.

This is very praise-worthy but I suspect, not quite voluntary. Considering the prohibitive price of fresh meat and the poor quality of the rationed meat, one cannot

### Y.M.C.A.

Christian Fellowship

Vesper Service

"Forging Unity in a Divided World"

By Paul G. Guinness

Editor: "World Communiqué" of World Alliance of Y.M.C.A.'s

Geneva, Switzerland.

6.30 p.m. Everyone welcome

## FRIDAY'S PRESS

### Moscow's 'Hate'

#### Unprecedented

Al Hamishmar (Mamam) notes that the Soviets have never used such language against a country as their continuous fulminations against Israel "provocations" and "aggression," and their open threats. It expresses its amazement at Moscow's feeling that the end justifies the means in the Middle East to the extent of threatening the very existence of a nation by giving unqualified encouragement to those who would wipe it out.

Davar (Histadrut) dwelling on the trials and tribulations of the Israel delegation to the Moscow Festival, writes that Khrushchev's calumnies will not stick, and that the appearance of our youth is the best witness to Israel's real nature.

Hahaker (General Zionist) attacks the appeasement policy of both the U.N. and the U.N.T.S.O. against the Arabs. Omek (Histadrut) dwells on the Jewish Ideological Conference.

Hamaia (World Aguda) expresses the opinion that the public would be much more likely to heed the call to contribute to the Housing Loan if the Government set the example by cutting down luxury spending by officials and reducing administrative costs.

Lamerhav (Abdud Ha'avoda) probing deeper, repeats that the resources required for immigration and absorption could be secured only by a radical reorientation of economic policy. The IL50m. to be spent by tourists at Tel Aviv this summer and the IL100m. that private residential building is costing in Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan alone show where and how the necessary funds for housing immigrants could be found.

Haaretz (non-party) writes that the IL55m. loan demanded by the Tel Aviv administration from the Government for the Yarkon sewage project would have been easier to secure had the Government shown that its part of the obligations in financing the project, which would be much nearer to completion today had this been the case.

Herut, which incidentally charges that a reportedly projected trip to South Africa by Rav-Aluf Dayan was arranged primarily to compete with the Herut's country that is to be sent to that country, hopes for the success of the rally for a French alliance in Tel Aviv tomorrow night, while Haaretz (World Mizrah) announces a series of Sabbath-observance rallies in that same city in protest against Dan's new Saturday evening schedules and demands that the Sabbath Law be enforced.

The coalition agreement is implemented at last.

### Help wondering what else is

left to us. When I have thrown away the fat, there is nothing left worth the queuing up for, the fuel and the preparation.

If the Ministry cannot supply us with decent meat once in a while, they had better drop distribution altogether.

Yours, etc.

ILSE PIETKOWSKI

Kiryat Haim, July 21.

### The soldier's well-being is the country's well-being

#### Soldiers' gifts

for

#### Rosh Hashana

5718

Every resident should contribute IL1.500 for a gift package sent by the Soldiers' Welfare Committee.

## MUSICAL DIARY

Symphony Concert by Kol Tzedek Orchestra and Kol Zion Orchestra. Conducted by Emma Shaver, soprano; Max Lampert, organist. Works by: Luter, Palestrina, Handel, Mendelssohn, Copland, Rostropovich, Karg-Elster, Liszt, Mahler, Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, August 6.

AS the season's last concert fell on the Ninth of Av, the programme was intended to fit the spirit of the day. Suitability for the occasion seems, in fact, to have pushed aside considerations of style and musical value. Instead of the dignified evening of serious music the concert has been, the choice of pieces resulted in an indiscriminate mixture of rare musical jewels and insignificant trifles.

The voice of Emma Shaver, a guest from the U.S., is clear, often pleasant and of a somewhat metallic timbre. In the piece in which she seemed most at home, Engel's "They say there is a Land," she displayed a natural charm and straightforwardness that fitted the folk character of the song and made her performance utterly enjoyable. She would do well to concentrate more on music of this sort, drawn from Eastern-European Jewish folklore, rather than appear in arias by Handel and Mendelssohn, in which her voice and musical gifts show themselves to less advantage.

The performance of the Kol Zion Choir which, under the authoritative direction of its conductor, gave a thoroughly rehearsed performance of choral works by Palestrina, Rossi and Moussorgsky.

In spite of some inclination to hesitancy their interpretation showed discerning musical understanding and their level of training and quality of sound make them a professional vocal ensemble in the best sense of the word.

URY EPSTEIN

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URY EPSTEIN